

MISSOURI SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL

*Advising the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on
Implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*

Chair

Bev Woodhurst

Vice Chair

Joan Zavitsky

Secretary

Lynda Roberts

To Whom It May Concern:

This annual report of the Missouri Special Education Advisory Panel is respectfully submitted for public review. This past year has been exceptional with new faces on the panel, new challenges, as well as new goals that were set and accomplished as we wind down to the end of another year.

The panel engaged in empowering discussions with representatives from Missouri's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. We said goodbye to a long standing member of the panel and assistant commissioner, Melodie Friedebach, and welcomed the new assistant commissioner and member of the panel, Heidi Atkins Lieberman.

The panel was excited when Dr. D. Kent King visited with us and enlightened us with some of his knowledge of current happenings within the department as well as where he could see the charge of the panel at this time, as well as speaking of No Child Left Behind.

The panel also looked over the charge of the public comment committee and what was working and not working on an ongoing basis as well as seeing if there could be a bullet on the Department's webpage for public comments.

Overall, it was a great year and the panel did a lot of growing and negotiating across the board. The Panel would like to thank all the staff that has provided an unlimited amount of information at our request, Pam Williams for her monthly updates, as well as to thank Lina Browner for her outstanding organizational skills and meeting our needs and keeping the panel well informed.

Advisory Panel meetings are open to the public and we encourage anyone with an interest in special education in Missouri to participate.

If you have needs addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act and need an alternate format of this letter, please call 573-751-5739 and efforts will be made to accommodate your needs.

Sincerely,

Beverly Woodhurst
Chairperson